IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously cancelled) ~~A method for improving the spreading properties of fatty alcohol containing compositions comprising the step of acylating an effective amount fatty alcohols in the fatty alcohol containing composition, whereby the spreading properties are increased over the spreading properties originally exhibited.~~

2. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of acylating an effective amount of fatty alcohols in the fatty alcohol containing composition comprises the steps of providing an amount of fatty alcohol containing composition and adding an effective amount of acylating source to the fatty alcohol containing composition.~~

3. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 2 wherein the acylating source is acetyl chloride or acetic anhydride.~~

4. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 2 wherein the acylating source is butyryl chloride or butyric anhydride.~~

5. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 2 wherein the acylating source is propyryl chloride or propyric anhydride.~~

6. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the fatty alcohol containing composition is an oil or wax that contains fatty alcohols.~~

7. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the fatty alcohol containing composition is a relatively pure fatty alcohol.~~

8. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the fatty alcohols have one free hydroxy group, which is a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol.~~

9. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 8 wherein the fatty alcohols are saturated.~~

10. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 8 wherein the fatty alcohols are at least mono-unsaturated.~~

11. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein the fatty alcohols have more than one free hydroxy group, each of which is a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol.~~

12. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 11 wherein the fatty alcohols are saturated.~~

13. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 11 wherein the fatty alcohols are at least mono-unsaturated.~~

14. (previously cancelled) ~~A method for improving the spreading properties of fatty alcohol containing compositions comprising the steps providing an amount of fatty alcohol containing composition, and adding an effective amount of acylating source to the fatty alcohol containing composition, where the acylating source is R.sub.1C.dbd.OOCR.sub.1 or R.sub.1C.dbd.OCl, where R.sub.1 is an alkyl substituent of the acyl group having between 1 and 5 carbons, and wherein the whereby the spreading properties are increased over the spreading properties originally exhibited.~~

15. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 14 wherein the fatty alcohols have one free hydroxy group, which is a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol.~~

16. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 15 wherein the fatty alcohols are saturated.~~

17. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 15 wherein the fatty alcohols are at least mono-unsaturated.~~

18. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 14 wherein the fatty alcohols have more than one free hydroxy group, each of which is a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol.~~

19. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 18 wherein the fatty alcohols are saturated.~~

20. (previously cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 18 wherein the fatty alcohols are at least mono-unsaturated.~~

21. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a topical formulation, said topical formulation suitably adapted for compounding with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi-and solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, and eyeliner, mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye ~~of a fatty alcohol containing composition~~, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol ~~composition~~ containing starting material, said ~~composition~~ starting material comprising ~~an effective amount of at least one fatty alcohol~~ at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil; and

~~introducing at least one acylating agent to said composition, wherein the spreading properties of the resulting acylated fatty alcohol product are substantially increased over the spreading properties of the fatty alcohol composition prior to acylation~~

acylating said fatty alcohol to produce a formulation product that demonstrates improved spreading properties as compared with the spreading properties of the starting material prior to acylation.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said ~~acylating agent~~ step of acylating said fatty alcohol comprises introducing at least one acylating agent from the group consisting of acetyl chloride, acetic anhydride, butyryl chloride, butyric anhydride, propyryl chloride and propyric anhydride to said fatty alcohol starting material.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol composition comprises at least one of a wax and an oil.

24. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol composition ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of a substantially pure fatty alcohol.

25. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least ~~one~~ two free hydroxy group.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a primary, secondary and tertiary alcohol.

27. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a saturated moiety and a mono-unsaturated moiety.

28. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a ~~fatty alcohol containing composition~~ topical formulation, said topical formulation suitably adapted for compounding with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, a massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi-solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol ~~composition~~ containing starting material, said ~~composition~~ starting material comprising ~~an effective amount of at least one fatty alcohol~~ at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil; and

introducing at least one acylating agent to said composition, wherein said acylating agent comprises at least one of $R_1C{=}OOR$ and $R_1C{=}OCl$, where R_1 comprises an alkyl substituent of the acyl group having between 1 and 5 carbons, and R comprises an organic carbon-containing residue; ~~and~~

wherein the spreading properties of the resulting acylated fatty alcohol product are substantially increased over the spreading properties of the fatty alcohol composition prior to acylation.

29. (previously presented): The method of claim **28**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one free hydroxy group.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim **28**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a primary, secondary and tertiary alcohol.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim **28,** wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a saturated moiety and mono-unsaturated moiety.